

The Laurinburg Exchange

J. H. Taylor & T. W. 14

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LAURINBURG, N. C., THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1914.

\$1.50 PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE

WILL T. MCKENZIE GETS LIFE SENTENCE

Young Scotland County Citizen Declared Guilty of Murdering His Brother-in-Law and Sentenced to Die On June 12th Receives Commutation of Death Sentence to One Of Life Imprisonment.

Attorneys E. H. Gibson, W. H. Cox and Judge Neal, of Laurinburg, left here Sunday at noon by automobile for Hamlet, where they caught the afternoon train going to Raleigh. The purpose of their trip was to make an appeal to Governor Craig in behalf of Mr. Will T. McKenzie, the young Scotland county citizen under sentence of death, the date being Friday, June 12th.

The plea of McKenzie's attorneys, together with the appeal of the jury that convicted him, the request of Judge Lyon, who tried the case, and a petition signed by about two thousand citizens of Scotland and Robeson counties resulted in Governor Craig extending the mercy of a life sentence to Mr. McKenzie.

Our readers are familiar with the case and we shall not again recite it in detail here.

The action of the Governor is no surprise to the people of the county, as the request made for this action on his part was perhaps as strong as was ever presented under like conditions. The jury that tried Mr. McKenzie said to the Governor in substance that they did not expect him to suffer the full penalty of the law, and had they thought he would, that they would have been a different verdict. This, with a request from the presiding judge and the signed appeal of so many citizens of the home county of Mr. McKenzie and the neighboring county in which he was tried, constituted a plea that Governor Craig quickly appreciated and without the usual delay in such cases, expressed his intention of granting this mercy to the young man.

GOVERNOR STATES HIS REASONS. "From the evidence I conclude that the verdict of the jury, whereby the defendant was convicted of murder in the first degree, was proper. "About twelve o'clock on the day of the killing, the defendant was grossly insulted by the deceased. The defendant armed himself, and about three or four o'clock of the same day went to the deceased who was at work near the road along which the defendant was traveling. It was evidently the intention of the defendant to humiliate the deceased regardless of most serious consequences. The fatal difficulty resulted.

"This commutation is recommended by Judge Lyon who tried the case, by all the jury, by a great number of the very best citizens of that section, by Hector McLean, A. L. James, T. J. Gill, W. T. Pate, L. M. Blue, J. A. McKay, T. C. Edwards, W. R. McEachin and many others of that type.

"In my opinion the defendant can escape the punishment of death only by the merciful exercise of the power vested in the executive. In view of the fact that he had been grossly insulted, that he was greatly disturbed by this insult, that he may not have determined to kill with that premeditation and deliberation required by the statute, and in accordance with the view of the good people of that section:—lawyers, ministers, doctors—citizens who must uphold and administer the law—I have decided to commute this sentence to life imprisonment, although I realize that the evidence warranted the verdict and that the defendant is guilty of a homicide which demands the severest punishment short of the extreme penalty: death.

Besides the Laurinburg attorneys, Mr. A. W. McLean, of Lumberton, appeared in behalf of Mr. McKenzie.

The Republican State Executive Committee has been called by Chairman John M. Morehead to meet in Greensboro May 26.

It is reported that President Wilson will speak at Cheraw, S. C., July 8, which will be the 150th anniversary of the founding of that town.

CORN CLUB PRIZES.

Valuable Rewards in Store for Faithful Workers on the Farm.

For the benefit of the contestants in the "Boys' Corn Club" of Scotland county we take pleasure in stating that the following prizes will be awarded strictly according to the rules and regulations of the club.

STATE PRIZES.

First prizes: Free trip to Washington, D. C. Given by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

\$50 cash, offered by Hastings Seed Co., Atlanta, Ga.

Second prizes: \$30 cash, offered by Hastings Seed Co., Atlanta, Ga.

One boar pig (Yorkshire breed), given by Geo. C. Leach, Aberdeen, N. C.

DISTRICT PRIZES.

Five cash prizes will be given in each district by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, as follows:

First prize:.....\$15.00

Second prize:.....12.50

Third prize:.....10.00

Fourth prize:.....5.00

Fifth prize:.....2.50

COUNTY PRIZES.

First prize: Free trip to State Fair at Raleigh, by The State Bank, Laurinburg.

Second prize: A good suit of clothes, by Z. V. Pate, Gibson.

Third prize: A Corn Shelter, by First National Bank, Laurinburg.

Fourth prize: One Buckeye Corn Planter, by The Planters Trading Co., Laurinburg.

Fifth prize: One Poland China Pig, by L. M. Blue, Gibson.

Sixth prize: 600 pounds Osceola (8-3-3) Fertilizer, by Jno. F. McNair, Laurinburg.

The North Carolina Commission to the San Francisco Exposition has decided that this State shall have a building on the grounds next year and that complete representation will be had. Gen. Julian S. Carr was elected president of the commission and Fred A. Olds secretary. Governor Craig is to leave Raleigh June 20 for San Francisco, where he will select the site for the North Carolina building.

The Fifth District Regional Reserve Bank (comprising North Carolina in its territory) was organized in Richmond last Monday. John F. Bruton, of Wilson, represents this State in the directorate.

Secretary Daniels addressed the graduating class of Davidson College last Monday, and on Monday night he delivered the commencement address before the Charlotte Graded Schools.

Secretary Bryan is scheduled to speak at Newbern on May 30, the occasion being "Home Coming" week in that town.

Col. Theodore Roosevelt arrived in New York May 19 after an absence of several months in South America.

CITY GRADED SCHOOLS CLOSE TOMORROW

The Laurinburg Graded Schools Close Another Successful Year. Closing Exercises Begin Tomorrow and End Monday Evening—Annual Sermon by Rev. R. F. Bumpas. The Program.

The Laurinburg Graded Schools, comprising the Central School and the East Laurinburg School, have finished another successful year's work, and beginning tomorrow and ending Monday evening the commencement exercises will take place.

This is the fifth year of the schools' existence, and under the direction of Prof. B. P. Caldwell it has been a most successful one. The program for the commencement exercises is as follows:

Friday, May 22d, 8:30—Play, "Mr. Bob," by Students of High School.

CASTE.

Miss Rebecca Luke, a Maiden Lady, Katie Calhoun

Miss Katherine Rogers, Miss Luke's Niece, Berrie Bryant

Marion Bryant, a friend of Miss Rogers, Irene Prince

Phillip Royson, Colin McArthur

Mr. Brown, representing a law firm, Edwin Gill

Patty, the Maid, Ruth McKinnon

Jenkins, the Butler, John Shaw.

Sunday, May 24th, 11:15—Annual Sermon by Rev. R. F. Bumpas, of Laurinburg Methodist Church, School Auditorium.

Monday, May 25th, 11:00 A. M.—Contest in Declaration for Faculty Medal:

Ralph Calhoun, The New South.

Ned Clayton, The University Training Camp.

Clifton Fairley, The Vision of War.

Frank John, Rubenstein's Play- ing.

John Maxwell, The Responsibility of War.

Benton Prince, The Hero of the Furnace Room.

Malloy Prince, Arena Scene from Quo Vadis.

Judges: Dr. W. D. James, Mr. T. J. Dunn and Hon. W. H. Weatherspoon.

Song—Summer Fancies, O. Metra—High School Chorus.

Instrumental Quartette—Carmen, Georges Bizet—Ruth McKinnon, Betsie McNeill, Agnes L. Buchanan, Bernice Douglas.

Monday, May 25th, 8:30 P. M.—Graduating Exercises.

Class Dav.

Song—Merry June—C. Vincent—High School Chorus.

Invocation—Rev. J. R. Williams. Salutory—Benton Prince.

Class Statistics—Mabel Brooks. Class Poem—Clifton Fairley.

Song—Daisies Everywhere—L. Denza.

Class Prophecy—Ralph Calhoun. Class Will—John Maxwell.

Valedictory—Frank John.

Duo Variations—C. Saint-Saens—Irene Prince, E. Gibson.

Presentation of medals, awards of honor, delivery of diplomas to members of graduating class.—Mr. Edward Gibson, Supt. Caldwell.

THE GRADUATING CLASS.

The graduating class this season is composed of one girl, Miss Mabel Brooks, and eight boys—Ralph Calhoun, Edward Clayton, Clifton Fairley, Frank John, John Maxwell, Morrison McLaurin, Benton Prince and Malloy Prince.

The Mexican Situation.

May 14—Rebels took the port of Tampico after besieging it for several weeks. Peace conference at Niagara Falls, Canada, postponed from May 18 to May 20.

May 15—The United States demands explanation from Huerta as to killing of Private Samuel Parks, U. S. A., who strayed into the Mexican lines near Vera Cruz, and who is reported to have been executed. It is claimed that his execution constitutes a violation of the armistice which has been agreed to pending the outcome of the peace conference.

May 17—The A. B. C. peace mediators left Washington for Niagara Falls. Huerta's three delegates also started thither, after a call upon Secretary Bryan.

May 18—The U. S. delegates to the peace conference received final instructions from President Wilson and departed for Niagara Falls, where the conference is scheduled to be held, opening May 20. News from Jurez, Mexico, says that the rebels insist that only the elimination of Huerta and his entire party will restore peace in Mexico. It is stated that Huerta has authorized his delegates to consent to his withdrawal from the presidency.

Blackhand Work at Littleton.

On or about the 27th of March last Wiley G. Coleman received a note from some person unknown to him demanding that \$50 be placed at some point designated in the note by a certain time.

The demand was promptly met and persons put on the watch for the come after it. The money was not taken. The latter part of April the demand was repeated, also a note sent to the policeman warning him that he had better quit watching a mail box (the place designated for the money to be placed each time) or he would pay the penalty. The money was again placed in the mail box, and the policeman was on the watch for the criminal, but was discovered and shot at, the ball coming dangerously near the mark. Mr. Coleman does not know who the person thus trying to annoy him is, but he does know that person is violating law and placing himself in a serious position, as it is perfectly natural that Mr. Coleman should be prepared for any emergency. —Littleton News-Reporter.

Evidently murdered and the body riddled of all belongings, then placed across the rails of the Norfolk Southern Railway near Wilson in order that the crime might be covered up, fate stepped in and the body of Frank Smith was discovered last Friday night by the engineer of the Norfolk Southern eastbound passenger train in time to stop his engine. No clue has been discovered as to the murderer.

John R. Early, the North Carolina leper who attained notoriety several years ago, escaped from the quarantine station at Port Townsend, Wash., last week.

PRIMARY ELECTION PASSED OFF QUIETLY

The Vote in Scotland Heavier Than Two Years Ago—Spirited Contest for Congressional Candidates—Page Defeats Beasley By Large Majority—C. E. Muse for Register of Deeds Leads Ticket.

WHAT SHALL WE DO?

The Laurinburg Girl at Montrose Not Yet Provided For.

During the past two weeks this publication has endeavored by asking for contributions from the good people who read THE EXCHANGE to raise a fund of \$50 to be used in making it possible for Miss ———, a bright young Laurinburg girl, to remain at Montrose, the State sanatorium for tubercular patients. The response to this appeal has been very small, indeed so small that it now appears that she will have to give up the sweet hope of holding on to life and return to her home broken in spirit, broken in health and doomed to a certain death. Only the \$50 stands between her and the restoration of her health and happiness. The attending physicians say that with two months further treatment she can return home with great assurance of a recovery, but if she has to leave now, the chances are that she will soon return to her former condition, which certainly means an early death.

Is it possible that the good people of this enlightened, progressive and so richly blessed community, will permit one of its fair young girls to perish for the lack of \$50? Will we say to her, No. Is that to be our answer?

A VIRGINIA FRIEND.

We are in receipt of the following letter from Richmond, Va.:
617 W. Grace St.,
Richmond, Va., May 17, 1914.
THE LAURINBURG EXCHANGE,
Laurinburg, N. C.,
Gentlemen:

Your paper under date of May 7th happened to come into my hands. I noticed the letter from assistant superintendent at Montrose regarding one of their patients. I would be glad if you would let me know if this sum of \$50 has been raised, if not, I would be glad to contribute something to it. I imagine though it has been forwarded before this.

Thanking you in advance for this information, I am,
Yours truly,
(Miss) Sarah McKinnon.

We didn't like to write to this distant friend that the people here had failed to come to the rescue of one of their own, but we were compelled to tell her that she had surmised wrong in thinking that the amount had been given, and that her contribution would be gratefully accepted. In our first campaign for money to send this girl away, we were surprised to find that such a per cent of it came from strangers who had no motive in giving except as they desired to answer the cry of a suffering stranger, and now when we wish to raise an additional fund for the benefit of this young lady, one of our own, we find strangers in neighboring States more quickly responding than we, upon whom

The nominating primary held in Scotland county Saturday passed off quietly, and although the results were not just what everyone would have wished, the results are of course satisfactory to the majority of our citizens—at least their ballots, expressing their wishes, say so.

The most interesting contest was that between Page and Beasley, candidates for Congress. The most ardent Beasley supporters, throughout the entire campaign, had no hope of carrying Scotland for their candidate, but they fought hard to secure the largest vote possible for him. As an evidence of the extreme interest on both sides, voters were personally appealed to to vote for Mr. Page and likewise for Mr. Beasley, and when a voter had passed the Congressional box and had voted there, he was turned loose and permitted to vote the balance of the way without serious molestation. Both sides used printer's ink in their fight, and THE EXCHANGE had to use two special editions to take care of the demands made upon it.

The result was no surprise, for it was long before conceded that Mr. Beasley had no chance of securing a majority of Scotland's vote.

In local affairs, the race for a seat in the lower house of the General Assembly was of greatest interest and resulted in a tie-up between Mr. A. E. Shaw, of Wagram, Spring Hill township, and Mr. L. M. Blue, of Gibson, Williamson township. Mr. Blue lacked only six votes of securing a seat. The votes above both his opponents, Mr. Shaw and Mr. H. O. Covington of Laurinburg. At a meeting of the board of canvassers Monday Mr. Shaw, through his friend, Mr. John A. McKay, of Wagram, notified the committee that he did not desire a second primary, and thus Mr. Blue was declared the nominee.

Messrs. J. R. Jordan, the incumbent, and Mr. P. N. Brown were candidates for the office of Coroner. Both worked hard. In this vote Mr. Jordan secured the largest majority of any candidate who had opposition.

Messrs. George T. Goodwyn and M. L. John were in the field for the office of Prosecuting Attorney in the Trial Justice's Court, with the result that Mr. Goodwyn received the nomination.

The other county candidates had no opposition and Mr. C. E. Muse, candidate for re-election to the office of Register of Deeds, has the distinction of leading the ticket by three votes.

the real responsibility rests.

If we are to do anything in the behalf of this young lady, it must be done without delay. The money must be forthcoming or this bright young girl must come home. Which shall we do, give \$50 or permit her to die? We have to do one of these.

John L. Griffiths, U. S. consul-general at London, died suddenly in that city, May 17.

Results of Primaries Held in Scotland County, North Carolina, May 16, 1914.

PRECINCT	Congress		Solicitor		House of Reps.		Pros. Atty.	C. C.	R. D.	Sher	Sen.	T. J.	County Com.			Cot Wg Lbg Cot Wg Gib		Justice of the Peace											
	R. N. Page	R. F. Beasley	W. E. Brock	R. L. Brown	A. E. Shaw	H. O. Covington	L. M. Blue	Geo. T. Goodwyn	M. L. John	H. H. Covington	C. E. Muse	W. D. McLaurin	Lee S. Overman	E. H. Gibson	D. C. McNeill	W. F. Parker	W. G. Buie	Angus McKinnon	Emanuel Gibson	L. P. Wright	S. A. Snead	J. S. Jackson	L. P. Gibson	W. W. McGirt	D. L. McLaughlin	Neill McKay			
Spring Hill	135	4	92	38	133	2	10	107	20	128	128	128	132	128	128	128	128										130	130	130
Upper Laurel Hill	21	8	24	4	13	1	15	24	2	28	28	28	27	28	28	28	28												
Lower Laurel Hill	87	24	75	33	63	8	42	80	28	110	110	110	106	110	110	110	110	99								77	77	77	
Stewartville No. 1	177	149	155	158	169	88	79	276	53	316	316	313	315	315	314	314	316	296											
Stewartville No. 2	65	11	62	8	5	14	57	12	61	72	75	74	71	74	74	74	74	34											
Upper Williamson	183	24	163	35	11	7	194	131	64	237	237	237	233	237	237	236	237	137	57										
Lower Williamson	110	10	109	8	6	3	112	74	43	115	115	101	115	114	111	110	110	97	15										
Totals	778	230	680	284	400	123	509	704	276	1006	1009	991	999	1006	1002	1000	1003	429	234	72	77	77	77	130	130	130			